

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5, 7, and 8 are in the application, with Claim 1 being independent. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,951,785 (Uchihashi) in view of Europe 1 205 982 (Tran). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Uchihashi in view of Tran and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,443,840 (Geissler). Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Uchihashi in view of Tran and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,998,729 (Shiomi). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Uchihashi in view of Tran and further in view 1994 IEEE First World Conference (Yang). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claim 1, the entirety of the solar cell module has flexibility.

None of Uchihashi, Tran, Geissler, Shiomi, and Yang, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

According to Uchihashi, his photovoltaic module 1 includes a frame 10 made of aluminum or the like. See col. 5, lines 16 to 18, and Fig. 1 of Uchihashi. Further, as described in Uchihashi, the photovoltaic module 1 includes a photovoltaic section 11 composed of tempered glass 11c or the like. See col. 5, lines 19 to 21, and Fig. 1 of Uchihashi. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the entirety of Uchihashi's photovoltaic module 1 does not have flexibility.

With respect to Tran, it is described that the solar cell panel 1 includes a module carrier panel 3. See col. 3, lines 38 to 41, and Figs. 4 and 6 of Tran. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the entirety of Tran's solar cell panel 1 does not have flexibility.

Geissler, Shiomi, and Yang are not seen to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Uchihashi and Tran.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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